

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Be it known that I, **KEVIN JOHNSON**, residing at **2747
Briarcliff Road, No. 6, Atlanta, Georgia 30329**, a citizen
10 of the United States, have invented certain new and useful
improvements in a

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MULTIPLE-VESSEL CONTAINER

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of which the following is a specification.

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INVENTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

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MULTIPLE-VESSEL CONTAINER

TECHNICAL FIELD

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The present invention relates generally to containers, and more specifically to a bottle with multiple vessels, wherein each vessel is capable of storing fluids.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A variety of beverage containers are available that display a design, such as an animal, team mascot, amusement park emblem or restaurant logo, wherein such beverage containers provide the user with a memento or souvenir that can be collected and reused. In addition to their usefulness and aesthetic value to the consumer, novelty cups and bottles are utilized by the owners of restaurants, sports events, amusement parks, and the like, as a form of advertising. Consumers purchase and keep such novelty cups

and bottles for their appealing design, and are reminded of the sponsor every time that they use the cup or bottle.

Thus, clever and novel designs can increase the
5 desirability of such souvenir bottles. Furthermore,
beverage containers can be produced as part of a series of
designs and thereby function as collectible items,
encouraging consumers to purchase more containers to
complete the set of designs. For example, a series of
10 beverage containers displaying Santa Claus and reindeer
designs could be sold as a set or individually as
collectible items.

With respect to the contents of such containers, an
15 increasing variety of beverages are becoming available to
today's consumers. For instance, new flavors and
assortments of beers, juices and soft drinks are
continually being introduced into the marketplace. Given
the wide variety of beverages available, it is increasingly
20 unlikely that all members of a family or group will desire
the same beverage, and given the on-the-go lifestyle of
most families and couples today, the need for convenient
portability is well recognized. Thus, it has become

desirable to have a drink container that is capable of separately storing two or more beverages. Such a container could allow a user to select between multiple beverages in a single container. Unfortunately, however, conventional
5 beverage containers are only capable of containing a single liquid.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for a beverage container that not only displays an
10 appealing design, but can individually store multiple beverages.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing a container having an appealing design
20 that coincidentally enables the separate storage and individual selection of more than one beverage.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention in its preferred form is a device for storing multiple beverages, wherein a smaller container is retained within a larger container. More specifically, the present invention comprises an outer container and an inner container, wherein the outer container and inner container are each adapted to retain liquids therewithin. The inner container is discretely situated within the cavity of the outer container, wherein the dual-compartment or multiple vessel container of the present invention features a divided aperture, thereby permitting the contents to be individually placed in or taken out of each compartment or vessel of the container.

15 In the preferred form, the inner container embodies a three-dimensional design, wherein the outer container is formed from a transparent or translucent material enabling the display of the inner container. For example, without limitation, the three-dimensional design of the inner container could define the shape of an animal, team mascot, 20 emblem, logo, block lettering, and/or any other licensed character, trademark or symbol, as desired.

Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to separately store and individually dispense multiple liquids, thereby allowing a user to select between a number of desired beverages within
5 a single container.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the unique form of the inner container, wherein the design provides the user with a souvenir, memento or
10 collectible.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is that the transparent properties of the outer container permit the viewing of the design embodied by the inner
15 container.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to be reused.

20 Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to retain either hot or cold liquids.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the positioning of the inner container within the outer container, wherein the outer container can thermally insulate the contents of the inner container.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is the positioning of the inner container within the outer container, wherein the contents of either the inner container or the outer container can be frozen to cool the contents of the adjacent container.

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These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference

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numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention displaying a bird design;

FIG. 2 is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention showing an elephant design;

FIG. 3 is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention with an example of sports team mascot image, logo and design thereon;

FIG. 4 is a front view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention with an example of sports team mascot image, logo and design thereon;

FIG. 5 is a top view of the top of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the design shown in **FIG. 4**;

FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of the design shown in **FIG. 4**;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the design shown in **FIG. 2**; and

FIG. 9 is a front perspective view of the design shown in **FIG. 2**.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS**

In describing the preferred and selected alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in **FIGS. 1-9**, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to **FIGS. 1-9**, the present invention in a preferred embodiment is a container **10** for separately storing multiple liquids, wherein container **10** generally possesses outer container **20**, inner container **50**, and top
5 **90**. Container **10** is preferably formed from flexible plastic; however, it is recognized that container **10** could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glass, tin, or aluminum. Preferably, container **10** is utilized to retain and dispense
10 beverages for human consumption; however, it is contemplated that container **10** could be utilized to retain contents that are not beverages, such as, for exemplary purposes only, condiments, oils, vinegar, salt, pepper, spices, gel, shaving cream, lotion, mouthwash, toothpaste,
15 other personal care products, and/or any other suitable aqueous or viscous substances.

Referring now to **FIG. 6**, outer container **20** is preferably a vessel capable of containing liquids, wherein
20 outer container **20** is preferably defined by bottom wall **22**, peripheral wall **24**, neck portion **26**, handle **28**, rim **30**, and first cavity **32**, and wherein bottom wall **22**, peripheral wall **24**, neck portion **26** and handle **28** are preferably

integrally formed together to collectively form outer container **20**. Outer container **20** is preferably formed from transparent or translucent material to permit the display of inner container **50**, as more fully described below.

5 Preferably, bottom wall **22** is substantially circular-shaped and peripheral wall **24** is substantially cylindrical-shaped. It is recognized in an alternate embodiment that peripheral wall **24** could also include ribs, grooves, or humps to facilitate gripping of container **10**.

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Preferably, neck portion **26** and handle **28** are provided to allow a user to hold container **10** in a manner that does not obstruct the view of inner container **50**, as more fully described below. Moreover, handle **28** is preferably ring-shaped to allow a user to carry container **10** via a strap or tie. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that container **10** could comprise any size, shape or number of neck portions **26** and handles **28**. It is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that outer container **20** could embody other suitable shapes, such as, for exemplary purposes only, spherical, cubical or pyramidal.

Rim **30** preferably defines a generally circular-shaped aperture, wherein contents are placed into or removed from container **10** therethrough. Preferably, rim **30** is configured and dimensioned to receive top **90** thereon, as
5 more fully described below.

Inner container **50** is preferably a vessel capable of containing liquids, wherein inner container **50** is preferably situated within first cavity **32** of outer
10 container **20**. Preferably, inner container **50** is defined by neck portion **60** and design portion **70**, wherein neck portion **60** and design portion **70** jointly form second cavity **52**. Preferably, handle **28** defines a portion of second cavity **52**; however it is recognized that handle **28** could be
15 separate from second cavity **52**.

In the preferred embodiment, first cavity **32** and second cavity **52** preferably have the capacity to retain equal volumes of liquid. However, one skilled in the art
20 would readily recognize that any relationship of storage volumes could be utilized without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.

Preferably, neck portion 60 of inner container 50 comprises wall 62, wherein wall 62 is integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall 21 of outer container 20, thus enabling a dual-compartment design for neck portion 60. Thus, neck portion 60 functions as a conduit to connect design portion 70 of inner container 50 to rim 30 of outer container 20 and preferably, wall 62 of neck portion 60 divides rim 30 into two separate apertures 80 and 82, wherein aperture 80 allows contents to be placed in or taken out of first cavity 32, and wherein aperture 82 allows contents to be placed in or taken out of second cavity 52. Although wall 62 of neck portion 60 is preferably integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall 21 of outer container 20, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that neck portion 60 does not contact inner wall 21, wherein neck portion 60 is connected to outer container 20 at rim 30.

Referring now to FIG. 9, preferably, design portion 70 is defined by front side 72, rear side 74, bottom wall 76, first sidewall 78 and second sidewall 80, wherein design portion 70 defines three-dimensional design 82, which can be viewed from the exterior of container 10. Without

limitation, design 82 could embody, for exemplary purposes only, an animal, team mascot, emblem, logo, block lettering, and/or any other desirable licensed character, trademark or symbol.

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Preferably, front side 72 and rear side 74 of design portion 70 are mirror images one another, wherein front side 72 and rear side 74 are raised and/or otherwise textured surfaces that provide a realistic depiction and/or depth for design 82. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that front side 72 and rear side 74 could also have raised and/or textured inner surfaces, and/or that front side 72 and rear side 74 could be smooth and essentially flat with design 82 printed on the outer surfaces of front side 72 and rear side 74. As shown in FIG. 8, it is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that front side 72 could display design 82, wherein rear side 74 could be a generally flat, blank surface. It is also recognized that rear side 74 could represent the rear of design 82, such as, for exemplary purposes only, the rear of an elephant.

As best shown in **FIGS. 7** and **9**, bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** preferably connect front side **72** to rear side **74**, wherein bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** are preferably smooth, non-textured surfaces. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment, however, that bottom wall **76**, first sidewall **78** and second sidewall **80** could define the bottom and sides of the selected design **82**, such as, for exemplary purposes only, the bottom and sides of an elephant.

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Preferably, inner container **50** is situated within outer container **20**, wherein design portion **70** of inner container **50** does not contact inner wall **21** of outer container **20**. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment, however, that design portion **70** could share one or more walls with outer container **20**, wherein inner container **50** is integrally/coincidentally formed to/with inner wall **21** of outer container **20**. For example, it is recognized that either front side **72** or rear side **74** of design portion **70**, or both front side **72** and rear side **74** of design portion **70**, could share a wall with outer container **20**. In this embodiment, design **82** is defined by

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a textured surface, or ink disposed on peripheral wall **24** of outer container **20**.

As best shown in **FIGS. 6** and **8**, top **90** preferably is a lid for sealing container **10**, wherein top **90** is preferably capable of dispensing liquids from first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**. Top **90** generally preferably comprises peripheral lip **92** and lid **94**. Preferably, peripheral lip **92** is dimensioned and configured to receive and removably secure rim **30** of outer container **20** therein via frictional fit; however, it is contemplated that any conventional attachment means known within the art could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, threaded engagement.

Lid **94** of top **90** generally preferably comprises divider **100**, topside **110**, and apertures **120** and **122**. Preferably, divider **100** effectively extends wall **62** of inner container **50** to topside **100**, thereby separating first cavity **32** of outer container **20** and second cavity **52** of inner container **50**. Preferably, apertures **120** and **122** are disposed on topside **110**, wherein aperture **120** is positioned above first cavity **32**, and wherein aperture **122** is positioned above second cavity **52**. It is contemplated in

an alternate embodiment that lid **94** could possess greater than two apertures, or that lid **94** could lack apertures, wherein lid **94** must be removed in order to access first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**. Lid **94** further preferably
5 comprises caps **130** and **132** for sealing and opening apertures **120** and **122**, wherein caps **130** and **132** preferably engage apertures **120** and **122** via frictional fit. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that lid **94** could possess other suitable devices for dispensing liquids
10 contained within container **10**, such as, for exemplary purposes only, spouts, hand pumps, or straws. It is further contemplated in another alternate embodiment that lid **94** could define other suitable shapes and/or sizes, so long as lid **94** is capable of sealing container **10** while
15 maintaining the division between first cavity **32** and second cavity **52**.

In the preferred use of container **10**, either top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is removed from container **10** to
20 permit contents to be placed within first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52**. Top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is subsequently replaced back onto container **10** to facilitate storage and/or transportation of the contents previously

placed therewithin. To access first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52**, either top **90**, cap **130** and/or cap **132** is removed from container **10**, wherein the contents stored therewithin can be either poured or squeezed out. In an
5 alternative embodiment, first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52** could be accessed via straws inserted into apertures **120** and **122** of top **90**. In another alternate embodiment, contents stored within first cavity **32** and/or second cavity **52** could be dispensed via spouts and/or hand
10 pumps disposed within apertures **120** and **122** of top **90**.

In yet another alternate embodiment, apertures **120** and **122** of top **90** could be sealed via corks.

15 In still another alternate embodiment, outer container **20** could lack neck portion **26** and handle **28**, wherein outer container **20** is substantially cylinder-shaped.

In a further alternate embodiment, container **10** could
20 be formed from a resilient, squeezable material.

In yet a further alternate embodiment, outer container 20 and/or inner container 50 could possess glow-in-the-dark properties.

5 In still a further alternate embodiment, container 10 could comprise more than one inner container 50.

In yet another alternate embodiment, outer container 20 could comprise a secondary inner wall for thermal
10 insulation of the contents stored therein.

In still another alternate embodiment, container 10 could be securely sealed for initial sale, wherein the seal is broken by the purchaser for initial consumption of the
15 contents therewithin, and wherein container 10 is resealable for subsequent reuse.

In a further alternate embodiment, container 10 could possess a design that is produced as part of a set or
20 series of designs, such as, for exemplary purposes only, all of the universities in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but is limited only by the following claims.